Jack Ruby: 'I was framed to kill Oswald!'

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Ed. Note: This article, the second in a two-part series, was compiled by Don Freed, Jim Cookson and Jeff Cohen of the campaign for Democratic Freedoms.

In August 1974, the London Sunday *Times* disclosed that Jack Ruby admitted to his psychiatrist that he was part of a conspiracy to frame Lee Harvey Oswald.

James Earl Ray's attorneys presented evidence at an October 1974 hearing that their client, who has always maintained his innocence, was forced into a guilty plea. Ray recently identified a CIA/mob hitman as being at the scene of the King murder. The hitman was also linked to Ruby in the Warren Commission volumes.

A New York *Times* interview with ex-FBI agent Arthur Murtagh revealed that the bureau's surveillance of Dr. King was "massive and complete." Missing from the *Times* was Murtagh's comments that he saw conspiracy "leads being washed out" in both the JFK and King murder investigations.

According to *Zodiac News Service*, Murtagh's reports on Jack Ruby's ties to right-wing Cubans were submitted — and then doctored. The ex-FBI man believes that right-wing conspiracies were behind both murders.

Zodiac also released a story on Sirhan Sirhan's cellmate, who was found stabbed to death shortly after writing to a Nevada State Assemblyperson that Sirhan had disclosed that more than one gun was employed in the RFK assassination.

The January 1975 issue of *Harper's* magazine contained an article (edited by Alexander Cockburn) which explored the forensic scientific evidence that supports the conclusion of two guns in the Ambassador Hotel pantry that June night in 1968. Ex-Congressperson Allard Lowenstein has called for a new investigation.

"We do have a dirty rumor (Oswald's FBI link) and it must be wiped out insofar as it is possible to do so by this commission."

— J. Lee Rankin, Warren Commission, Chief Counsel

After years of petitioning, researcher Harold Weisberg obtained and published the transcript of the executive session in which Warren Commissioners discuss methods of exploring/ignoring the evidence that Oswald was an FBI informant. The Commission operated in fear of J. Edgar Hoover, and in fear of the truth.

Gerald Ford, the ex-Warren Commissioner, illegally published much of this classified document in his book, *Portrait of the Assassin.* Ford committed perjury when he denied the charge at his vice-presidential confirmation hearings.

"Out of the Files and Into the Streets"

— Village Voice, 2/10/75

The Assassination Information Bureau conference Feb. 1, 1975 in Boston brought researchers together to map strategy for a political movement that would force the issue of political murder before Congress and the American people.

On the eve of the conference, Congressperson Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., introduced a bill that would establish select committees to investigate the decade of gunplay. Researchers and activists accelerated the pace of lectures, Zapruder film showings, teach-ins and congressional ear-bending.

Now, for the first time in 11 and a half years, a segment of the mass media is exploring the assassination issue as political murder instead of unrelated flukes of history.

The much publicized *Penthouse* excerpt from a new book, *The Assassination Tapes,* penned by George O'Toole, ex-CIA Chief of Problem Analysis, has brought "termination" of his government security clearance and a hysterical attack (on official stationery) from the Rockefeller/CIA panel.

O'Toole's reply will appear in the press in a few weeks. He plans to sue his ex-employer for his file.

The April 3 issue of *The New York Review of Books* presents

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 and have officially transmitted all other papers related to this report to higher authority.

J. J. Humes
J. J. HUMES
CDR, MC, USN

photographs taken by the CIA of a man posing as Lee Oswald at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City on Oct. 1, 1963. And a devastating probe into the soft underbelly of "the company's" (CIA's) cover story by O'Toole and Bernard Fensterwald.

A recent New York *Times* article reveals a memo from Hoover to the State Department in 1960 indicating that an imposter was using Oswald's credentials. The memo, an early warning of Oswald's intelligence activities, was not shown to the Warren Commission staff.

A *Rolling Stone* piece reports that an ex-commission staffer, Judge Burt Griffin, has called for an official reopening of the JFK case. David Belin, chief counsel for Rockefeller's CIA panel, is exposed by *Stone* as a Warren Commission attorney who altered testimony when it did not fit.

After 11 years, the Zapruder film is finally shown, to unprecedented public response, on a network TV show, ABC's *Good Night America*. This single most important piece of evidence in the case was bought and suppressed by *Time, Inc.* in 1963.

The obligatory graphic appears, at last, on the cover of a national weekly, *New Times* (April 18, 1975): a painting of Kennedy's head exploding from a right, *front* shot. In the wake of article after article, Walter Cronkite begins to shift on the CIA and *foreign* assassinations. The CBS *60 Minutes* team starts a secret new investigation into the real lives of Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

Cronkite releases the suppressed "National Security" portion of his 1969 interview with Lyndon Johnson. The president who appointed and defended the Warren Commission and its lone-nut conclusion points to an "international"

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OSWALD

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conspiracy — *Castro's revenge.* Activists who have waged an 11-year battle to crack the lone-nut veneer now gird themselves for a fresh attempt at uncovering the coverup.

As "the company" attracts the attention it so richly deserves, the rush of events reveals a split in the American media. CBS and the *Times* show some curiosity, while *Newsweek* and the *Washington Post* cover fast for "the company."

"If, in the end, some "genius" should penetrate through all the layers and discs. . . he will find exactly the series of tableaux we have arranged for him: the lone psychopath of American assassination tradition. But if our hero insists on looking further; Castro and the revetments of the left; next, anti-Castro and the thunder of the right. Next, if necessary, our muckrakers will discover everyone's favorite — the Mafia! The have had a million-dollar contract on him for two years."

— "The Company" man, Executive Action

The *New Times* cover story explores Lee Oswald's handling by U.S.Intelligence. Robert Sam Anson indicates that Oswald had invisible means of support behind his travels to and from the Soviet Union. The State Department's token Marxist, Oswald was open-minded enough to associate with CIA and right-wing elements in Dallas and New Orleans upon his return from Russia.

"We had been operating a damned Murder Inc. (CIA) in the Caribbean."

— Lyndon Johnson

"A mansion has many rooms... I'm not privy to who struck John."

— James Angleton, Deposed CIA Official

The New York *Times* learns of CIA/Mafia collaboration in murder plots seven years after D.A. Garrison — and the *Times* is shocked by its "revelation."

Harrison Salisbury, the New York *Times* editor who debated publicly on the side of the Warren Commission, now selects *Penthouse* as the forum for his article, "Gentlemen Killers of the CIA."

New York magazine contributes a fictionalized account of the power struggle within the CIA — which ends in assassination.

But the latest disclosure is an unconfirmed report on a line of inquiry being pursued by the chief counsel for Rockefeller's blue-ribbon panel:

"Belin is said to be exploring the theory that the compilation of dossiers, disruption of radical groups, wiretapping and interception of mail, and other illegal activities attributed to the CIA were all the acts of a single deranged individual acting alone... 'the lone character assassin.'"

— National Lampoon

If the liberals, the Left, the educated class, the media were paralyzed by the taboo, what institutional schizophrenia was inflicted on the American people in the dim street? No help except from *Midnight*, the *Tatler* and the *Enquirer*. Psychics and psychiatrists smeared the guilt and fear around like excrement. No politician dared mention the issue, no poll after 1967 dared test the public.

By 1973, the Harris Poll found in answer to its question, "What do you fear most?" that 88 per cent of the American people most fear "the use of intelligence agencies by politicians to distort the electoral process." The masses, in Tolstoy's words, have been ruined by the government.

This new, angry doubt has been wroking its way to the surface through two decades of systematic, official lying. The people who had lived through the Great Depression and World War II are at last prepared to confront the ghastly visage of the secret power that has spoiled their lives.

"If war is the logical extension of diplomacy, then the logical extension of business is murder."

— Charlie Chaplin

Fear is the spinning coin hypnotizing us.

* * *

"What do you want?"

"Eggs."

(He stood there looking at me.)

"Yeah, and cook the ham real well, pork has always to be cooked real well."

"Toast? What kind of toast?"

"White."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SHOT.

"Coffee?"

"Yeah."

"Cream?"

"Yeah!"

"Lee Harvey Oswald."

"WAIT A MINUTE!"

Two horn blasts reverberated in the basement.

"They're bringing him out, ladies and gentlemen. Lee Harvey Oswald."

"Want a refill?"

"Nah! I got to go see my friend Vic."

"One dollar and six cents."

"Here he comes."

"Toot, toot."

"Here he comes."

"Toot, toot."

"Goddammit, two killings in three days..."

"Brought to you by Ivory Snow. Ivory Snow leaves your hands clean and manageable..."

"Lee Harvey Oswald, Ladies and Gentlemen."

"Mr. Oswald, did you shoot the President?"

"No, I haven't been charged with that."

(Everybody says he did, why does he deny it? A small-looking guy... looks like my cousin.)

"How did you get the bruise on your face?"

"A policeman hit me."

* * *

"Someone is coming who will take the ball out of the hands of the terrible players."

— Nellie Sachs

There is a daily conspiracy in America. A conspiracy against people.

Big business is a systematic conspiracy to steal the "private property," the essence and souls of the workers, the wealth and energy that is created every day by our labor.

Other conspiracies only cover up the day-to-day conspiracy. It is the day-to-day conspiracy that must be exposed and destroyed, otherwise we will be eternally exposing conspiracies.

The leading cadre of this information renaissance are prepared for the arrest of Philip Agee for treason when he begins his American tour this fall. Agee is to this moment what Ellsberg was to his — except that Agee is an open revolutionary.

The CIA censored Marchetti; it is too late to assassinate Agee. Now, Agee and support groups are establishing funds and security to bring more of the CIA's dead men in from the Cold War.

"There's a shit-storm coming."

— Norman Mailer

The need-to-know, what the Greeks called *Ananke*, has reached a kind of critical mass for the American people. The Red Menace cover-story for the old secret government and the Cold War held up for 25 years; after Watergate, the fig leaf of the new secret government's "energy crisis" barely stuck in place for 25 days.

Billions of pre-inflation dollars, hundreds of thousands of casualties, strangled priorities have shattered the accepted propaganda that has infantalized our people and made America the name of a nervous disease. □